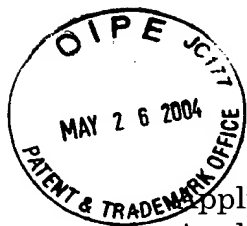


AF/1763
IFW

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Application No. : 09/849,880 ✓ Confirmation No. : 1101
Applicant : Hiroki TANIYAMA, et al.
Filed : May 4, 2001
TC/A.U. : 1763
Examiner : S MACARTHUR
Docket No. : 010986.51061
Customer No. : 23911
Title : Processing Apparatus, Processing System and Processing Method

REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION

Mail Stop AF

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The following remarks are respectfully submitted in response to the final
Office Action dated March 1, 2004.

Remarks begin on page 2 of this paper.